

February 18, 2022

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

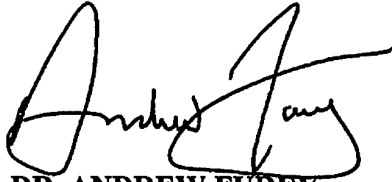
I am writing in response to your February 15, 2022 letter that outlines the federal government's plan to invoke certain provisions of the **Emergencies Act** as part of a strengthened federal response to illegal blockades that have taken place at international borders and are ongoing in locations throughout the country. In some cases, these unlawful forms of protest have significantly disrupted communities, businesses, and supply chains across Canada, which not only hurts workers, businesses, and the economy, but also poses real risks to public health and safety. This is unacceptable.

Newfoundland and Labrador is home to a vast resource rich mainland and expansive island region that give shape to our export-based economy. Our population is small compared to our geography, and our location is remote relative to the external markets we serve. Our productivity and competitiveness depends on the free flow of goods and people. We rely economically and socially on unencumbered transportation routes, strong and secure supply chains and the critical infrastructure that enables them. Interruptions to these complex systems can affect almost all other aspects of society, with Newfoundland and Labrador particularly vulnerable to disruptions in food production, supply and movement.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador respects the right to peaceful protest as an important part of our democracy. However, I sympathize with the citizens enduring illegal, and in some cases dangerous, obstructions to their neighbourhoods and their livelihoods. I am particularly troubled by the serious situation befalling our nation's capital that is not only damaging economic activity in the Province of Ontario, but is also threatening our country's collective reputation as a reliable trading partner internationally. In the context of restoring public order, Newfoundland and Labrador fully supports federal measures that are proportionate, limited in time and scope that where needed, supplement the capacity of provincial and territorial jurisdictions to address the blockades and these extraordinary ongoing circumstances.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the federal government's approach on this issue of national importance and look forward to continued dialogue on the matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Furey', with a stylized, flowing script.

DR. ANDREW FUREY

Premier

Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs

cc. The Honourable Judy M. Foote, P.C., O.N.L.
 The Honourable David Lametti
 The Honourable William Sterling Blair
 The Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino
 The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc
 The Honourable Seamus O'Regan
 The Honourable Siobhan Coady
 The Honourable John Hogan